(c) and (d) This Ministry has not referred any case of Vanishing Companies to CBI for investigation. However, Prosecutions have been filed against these companies under various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. FIRs have also been filed under the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and investigations are under progress by Police Authorities in various States.

Two separate funds for Consumer Protection

833. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are two separate funds available for consumer protection and awareness, one with the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) and another with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBJ);

(b) if so, to what extent, the DCA has utilised the available-funds for the purpose for which it is meant;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering transferring the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) available with DCA, to the SEBI;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) An Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has been established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999 for promotion of investors' awareness and protection of the interest of investors. SEBI does not have separate fund for consumer protection and awareness.

The details of funds utilised by Ministry of Company Affairs under IEPF are as below:

Year	Budget	Expenditure
2001-02	Rs. 57,00,000	Rs. 67,00,000
2002-03	Rs. 3,03,00,000	Rs. 1,79,40,000
2003-04	Rs. 3,00,00,000	Rs. 2,83,55,000
2004-05	Rs. 3,00,00,000	Rs. 1,63,37,684

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Company Affairs has not considered it feasible to transfer IEPF to SEBI.

Sale of Halcyon Castle of Private Hotel Group in Kerala

834. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arty inquiry is initiated against the authorities who facilitated the sale of Halcyon Castle to the private hotel group in Kerala State recently;

(b) if so, present status of the above inquiry; and

(c) the details of loss to the Government in the sale of the Halcyon Castle to the private hotel group and the proposal if any, to prevent such loss?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the sale of Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort at a price of Rs. 43,68,76,000/- is inclusive of Halcyon Castle. The reserve price fixed for Kovalam Ashok beach Resort (inclusive of Halcyon Castle) was Rs. 41.75 crore.

Excess supply of Stamps

835. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Security Press has not taken remedial measures despite a number of instances and complaints about the packets dispatched by it containing stamps of incorrect denominations, excess and short supply; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that sample check of documents during 1996—2003 in 6 States has disclosed short supplies with aggregate value of Rs. 1453.75 crores and excess supplies of stamps of value of Rs. 687.89 crores?